

<p style="text-align: center;">Minutes of the Special Town Meeting November 25, 2019</p>
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Moderator Karen Ludington opened the Special Town Meeting on Monday, November 25, 2019, at 7:15 p.m. at the Ayer Shirley Middle School Auditorium, 1 Hospital Road. Mike Detillion led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Town Clerk had sworn the following people to serve as tellers: Mike Detillion, Ted Landry, Joe Stanislaw, and Elizabeth Quinty. Laurie Witherell and Judy Stanislaw checked voters into the meeting. 118 voters checked in.

Tim Zessin, Town Counsel from KP Law, was in attendance and seated at the table on the stage with the Town Administrator, Michael McGovern, Accountant Heather Varney and Town Clerk Bill Oelfke.

Copies of the warrant were put on the Town's website, properly posted by the constable, and were available at the check-in area for attendees to bring into the meeting to refer to.

Article 1: Conservation of Land in Shirley, known as the Morse Property

Bryan Sawyer moved, seconded by Andree Jean Jacques, that the Town vote to approve Article 1 as printed in the warrant, authorizing the acquisition of land on Little Turnpike Road in Shirley for conservation and passive recreation purposes, and approving a borrowing of \$275,000 for said acquisition and all incidental and related expenses with the understanding that 68% is reimbursable from a state grant, \$68,500 from the Town General Stabilization Fund, and \$28,500 from Conservation Funds. Warrant states **"To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, to acquire by gift, purchase, eminent domain or otherwise for conservation and passive recreation purposes the fee in land located on Little Turnpike Road in Shirley, owned by the Morse Estate or otherwise, shown as Assessors Map 69 Parcel A 1, and comprised of approximately 52 acres of land; such land or interest therein to be held in the care and custody of the Conservation Commission in accordance with G.L. c.40, §8C, subject to the protection of Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution; that said Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen be authorized to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the LAND grant program, (formerly known as the Self-Help program), M.G.L. Chapter 132A, §11, and/or any other program that may provide funding for the acquisition and any incidental and related costs; and to execute, with approval of the Town Administrator, all such agreements as may be necessary on the part of the Town to effect such acquisition and/or such reimbursement; and as funding therefor, and for all costs incidental and related thereto, to appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Seventy Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$275,000.00), and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said amount pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, §§7 or 8 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes of the Town therefor and, pursuant to G.L. c.44, §20, to authorize any premium received upon the sale of such bonds or notes,**

after payment of any costs for preparing, issuing and marketing them, along with any accrued interest, to be applied to the costs of the property acquisition authorized hereunder to reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for such acquisition by like amount; and to take any other action relative thereto.”

This vote authorizes the Board of Selectmen to borrow and appropriate funds in amount up to \$275,000, thus requiring a 2/3rd vote.

Mike Fleming, Conservation Agent, explained the location of the property, and the process that was followed.

There were no questions on the issue from the audience.

Motion on Article: Card Vote; 103 Votes For Proposal; 2 Votes Against Proposal; Motion Passed by 2/3rd Vote

Article 2: Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure – 74 & 76 Townsend Road

Bryan Sawyer moved, seconded by Andree Jean Jacques, that the Town vote to approve Article 2 as printed in the warrant. The warrant states **to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a deed in lieu of foreclosure from William P. Poirier, or the then current owner(s), pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.60, §77C, to those parcels of land located at 74 & 76 Townsend Road, identified as Assessors’ Parcel Nos. 96 A 1 and 96 A 1.4, and depicted as Lots 1 and 2 on the plan recorded with the Southern Middlesex Registry of Deeds as Plan 916 of 1981, which parcels are subject to tax takings held by the Treasurer/Collector for unpaid real estate taxes, said parcels to be held under the care, custody, control and management of the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes, or take any other action relative thereto.**

This vote requires a majority vote.

No discussion on the issue.

Motion on Article: Card Vote; Motion passed by Majority.

Article 3: Annual Asset Limit Adjustment

Bryan Sawyer moved, seconded by Andree Jean Jacques, that the Town vote to approve Article 3 as printed in the warrant. The warrant states **to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause Seventeenth E of the Massachusetts General Laws, which provides that the amount of the whole estate, real and personal, for exemptions granted to senior citizens, surviving spouses and minors as set forth in clauses Seventeenth, Seventeenth C, Seventeenth C1/2 and**

Seventeenth D of said Section 5, shall be increased annually by an amount equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for such year, as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2020, or take any action in relation thereto.

This vote requires a majority vote.

No discussion on the issue.

Motion on Article: Card Vote; Motion passed by Majority.

Article 4: Tax Deferral Interest Rate Reduction

Bryan Sawyer moved, seconded by Andree Jean Jacques, that the Town vote to approved Article 4 as printed in the warrant. The warrant states **to see if the Town will vote to reduce the rate of interest from 8% to 4% that accrues on property taxes deferred by eligible seniors under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5, Clause Forty-first A, with such reduced rate to apply to taxes assessed for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2020, or take any action in relation thereto.**

This vote requires a majority vote.

No discussion on the issue.

Motion on Article: Card Vote; Motion passed by majority.

Article 5: Senior Statutory Exemption Age Eligibility Reduction

Bryan Sawyer moved, seconded by Andree Jean Jacques, that the Town vote to approve Article 5 as printed in the warrant. The warrant states **to see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause Forty-first C to reduce from 70 to 65 the age at which a person would be eligible to qualify for the exemption provided under said clause, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2020, or take any action in relation thereto.**

This vote requires a majority vote.

No discussion on the issue.

Motion on Article: Card Vote; Motion passed by majority

Article 6: PEG Access Receipt Reserved for Appropriation

Bryan Sawyer moved, seconded by Andree Jean Jacques, that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$56,397.31 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund for FY20 cable-related expenses.

This vote requires a majority vote.

No discussion on the issue.

Motion on Article: Card Vote; Motion passed by majority.

Motion made by Brian Sawyer, seconded by audience member, to adjourn meeting at 7:32 p.m. Voice vote, passed by majority.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Oelfke
Shirley Town Clerk